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General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

GENERAL COMMITTEE
5th meeting
held on
Friday, 20 November 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GANEV
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela (A/47/249 and Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice". He asked whether on the basis of consultations with all the delegations concerned he might take it that the General Committee wished to recommend the inclusion of the additional item.

2. Mr. DELON (France), Mr. MONGBE (Benin) and Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) said that their respective delegations had not been consulted on the proposal and therefore could take no position.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the consultations had been held with the sponsors of the proposal, but that the General Committee could now be informed of their outcome.

4. Mr. DELON (France), supported by Mr. ZARIF (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. MONGBE (Benin), proposed that the meeting should be suspended so that delegations other than the sponsors could be apprised of the situation.

5. Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) appealed to the Chairman to expedite a decision, since the Committee had already devoted much time to the question.

6. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt), supported by Mr. HAYES (Ireland), Mr. MOUMIN (Comoros) and Mr. KHOUINI (Tunisia), said that it would be preferable, before any suspension, for the Committee to be informed of the results of the consultations by one of the delegations concerned.

7. The CHAIRMAN, under rule 43 of the rules of procedure, invited the representative of Spain to address the Committee.

8. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain) took a place at the Committee table.

9. Mr. YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO (Spain), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that they had not thought it necessary to make a formal introduction of the proposal since it had been the General Committee's practice to accede to all

(Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo, Spain)

requests for the inclusion of additional items submitted by Member States, in which connection the Committee would note that 21 Member States were sponsors of the proposal now before it. Nevertheless it seemed that some difficulties had arisen. Since the item, if included, would be allocated to the Sixth Committee, he suggested that the Chairman of that Committee might wish to comment.

10. Mr. ZARIF (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the sponsors had agreed that the item, on inclusion, should be allocated to the Sixth Committee on the understanding that a consensus existed and that little time would be required for deliberation. He urged the General Committee to recommend the inclusion of the item and its allocation to the Sixth Committee.

11. Mr. WOOD (United Kingdom) said that while it was true that, in general, there was no difficulty in accepting the inclusion of additional items, the circumstances were somewhat exceptional in that an item of considerable difficulty and no great urgency was being proposed for inclusion very late in the session. His delegation would prefer the item not to be included in the agenda at the current session, in order to allow Member States adequate time to consider the issues involved. Nevertheless, in a spirit of compromise, he might well be able to accept some arrangement whereby the additional item was included at the current session. The meeting should be suspended so that delegations could hold informal consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that it was his understanding that the Committee was now in a position to act on the proposal.

13. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

14. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.